

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

The Office Action of May 3, 2006 has been carefully considered. Claims 1-5 are pending in the present application with claim 1 being in independent form. By the present amendment, claims 1-5 have been amended in order to further clarify the features of the present application. One sheet of new drawings have been added including new Fig. 2.

The Examiner has objected to the drawings under 37 C.F.R. §1.83(a) as allegedly failing to show every feature of the invention specified in the claims. In particular, the Examiner contends that the fire fighter units, pressure gauges, autonomous breathing unit (ABU) and the "guide line" must be shown in the Figures. As an initial matter, it is believed the FIG 1 illustrates the guide line of repeaters 2, 3, 4 and 5 that lead to the exit of the structure. Nonetheless, a new sheet of drawings is attached hereto including a new FIG. 2 which illustrates exemplary embodiments of the elements identified by the Examiner. The specific embodiments of these elements illustrated in FIG. 2 are consistent with the descriptions thereof included in the specification of the present application. Thus, it is respectfully submitted that no new matter has been added.

Accordingly, it is respectfully requested that the objection to the drawings be reconsidered and withdrawn.

The Examiner objects to the specification and argues that the title on the first page of the specification is not consistent with the title presented in the declaration filed September 9, 2006. Applicant respectfully disagrees.

The first page of the English language specification includes the title "ELECTRONIC EQUIPMENT FOR SAFETY AND CONTROL OF WORKERS." This title exactly matches the title listed on the declaration submitted on September 9, 2004. Thus, it is believed that the titles are consistent.

Accordingly, it is respectfully requested that the objection to the specification be reconsidered and withdrawn.

Claims 1, 2, 4 and 5 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph, as allegedly being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention. Reconsideration of this rejection is respectfully requested.

In particular, the Examiner contends that the phrase “guide line” in claims 1, 2 and 5 renders the claims indefinite because it is unclear what limitations are set forth by the phrase. As is described in the specification, for example at page 3, the “guide line” is formed by a line of repeaters. That is, the guide line refers to the line of repeaters that guides rescue workers toward the exit of the structure. As is further described at page 4 of the specification, the repeaters use visual and audible signals to guide the rescue workers. Thus, it is respectfully submitted that the meaning of the term “guide line” is sufficiently clear in light of the specification.

The Examiner further points out that the limitations “each autonomous breathing unit” lacks sufficient antecedent basis. The Examiner also argues that the term “the way out” in claim 2 renders the claim indefinite because it is unclear what environment the fire fighter is in. The Examiner also notes that the limitation “the bottle” in claim 4 lacks antecedent basis. Claims 2 and 4 have been amended herein in order to clarify the features of the present application and it is believed that the changes to claims 2 and 4 correct the error noted by the Examiner.

The Examiner further argues with respect to Fig. 4 that it is not understood how “approaching the pressure gauge to the personalized fire fighter unit” performs assignment. As is described at page 5 of the specification, the pressure gauge of the autonomous breathing unit (ABU) is assigned to a particular fire fighter using it by approaching, or bringing it near a sensor in the personalized fire fighter unit. Thus, it is believed that the specification makes it clear how the pressure gauge and the personalized fire fighter unit interact.

The Examiner further notes that the limitation “the first repeater” in lines 3 and 5 lacks sufficient antecedent basis. The amendment made to claims 5 herein is believed to correct this error.

Accordingly, it is respectfully requested that the rejection of claims 1, 2, 4 and 5 under 35 U.S.C. §112 be reconsidered and withdrawn.

Claims 1-3 and 5 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103 (a) as allegedly being unpatentable over U.S. Patent Publication No. 2002/0008625 to Adams in view of U.S. Patent Publication No. 2004/0021569 to Lepkofker et al. Reconsideration of this rejection is respectfully requested.

The Examiner contends that Adams substantially discloses the features of claim 1 of the present application. However, the Examiner concedes that Adams does not disclose that the fire

fighter units provide at all times the location of the fire fighter. The Examiner argues that Lepkofker et al. discloses this feature. Applicant respectfully disagrees.

Claim 1, as amended herein, relates to electronic equipment for safety and control of fire fighter workers in a structure including repeaters arranged to form a guide line leading toward an exit of the structure, which receive and transmit voice and data for use in determining positions of the fire fighter workers in the structure, personalized fire fighter units attached to the arm of each fire fighter worker that inform at all times on the status and location of the fire fighter worker and of each fire fighter unit itself, pressure gauges provided in each autonomous breathing unit (ABU) of a plurality of autonomous breathing units used by the fire fighter workers that informs on the air pressure and remaining breathing time and a central system unit that communicates with the personalized fire fighter units either directly or through the repeaters and analyzes the information received with a computer, such that the position of any individual fire fighter worker relative to a repeater in the guide line is determined.

Adams, as understood by Applicants, relates to a remote accountability system that includes a command post 102 and at least one portable remote system 103 with a portable unit 106 that transmits data collected from sensor systems 108 to the command post. Repeater units 104 may be provided to increase the range of communication between the portable units 106 and the command post 102.

Lepkofker et al. relates to a personnel and resource tracking method that uses gyroscope and accelerometer data to calculate the location of a person in a structure where GPS is not available. In Lepkofker et al., the user wears a personal tracking unit (PTU) 100 that collects data used to calculate the position of the person and transmits it to a master control station. Repeaters 40 may be used to relay such information.

Adams and Lepkofker et al., however, fail to show or suggest electronic equipment for safety and control of fire fighter workers including “repeaters arranged to form a guide line leading toward an exit of the structure, which receive and transmit voice and data for use in determining positions of the fire fighter workers in the structure,” as is required by amended claim 1 of the present application, for example. While Adams and Lepkofker et al. generally disclose repeaters 104, 40, respectively, there is no disclosure of arranging the repeaters in a guide line that leads toward an exit of the structure, as is required by claim 1 of the present application.

Further, Adams and Lepkofker et al. fails to disclose a central system unit that communicates with personalized fire fighter units either directly or through the repeaters and analyzes the information received with a computer, such that the position of any individual fire fighter worker relative to a repeater in the guide line is determined. While both Adams and Lepkofker et al. generally discloses the use of a central station or system, both of these reference fail to disclose that the central station analyzes information to determine the position of a fire fighter worker relative to a repeater. In Adams, the only locating means provides is a homing device that may be activated on the user and then traced using direction finding equipment. Lepkofker et al. discloses that the central station determines the location of the user, however, such locating is accomplished based on gyroscopic information. Lepkofker et al. does not disclose that a location of a user relative to a repeater is determined.

Accordingly, it is respectfully submitted that claim 1, and the claims depending therefrom, including claims 2-5, are patentable over the cited art for at least the reasons described above.

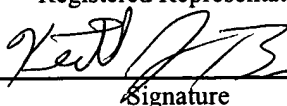
In light of the remarks and amendments made herein, it is respectfully submitted that claims 1-5 are patentable over the cited art and are in condition for allowance.

Favorable reconsideration of the present application is respectfully requested.

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service with sufficient postage as First Class Mail in an envelope addressed to: Mail Stop Amendment, Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450, on November 3, 2006:

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Name of applicant, assignee or
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Signature

November 3, 2006

Date of Signature

Respectfully submitted,



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AMENDMENT TO THE DRAWING(S)

Fig. 2 has been added. The attached sheet of formal drawing includes new Fig. 2.